



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

December 19, 2013

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## **REPORT BACK ON THE COSTS TO CLEAN UP HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS IN AREAS OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER AND OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTY (ITEM NOS. 5 AND 43, AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 12, 2013)**

On November 12, 2013, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, the Board of Supervisors (Board) instructed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to work with the Director of Public Works (PW) to report back to the Board in 30 days on the costs to clean up homeless encampments in areas of the Los Angeles River, and other areas of the County and whether some of the Homeless Prevention Initiative funds could be utilized in this project. The motion was approved as part of a larger discussion on Item Nos. 5 and 43 regarding the reprogramming of Homeless Prevention Initiative funds. Part 1 of the Board report is addressed below. Part 2, due to the Board on March 12, 2014, directed the CEO to return to the Board with a detailed implementation plan, budgets, and funding proposals for all programs identified to receive reprogrammed Homeless Prevention Initiative funding pursuant to the Chief Executive Officer's October 30, 2013 Board report.

Homeless encampments may occur within Flood Control District rights-of-way (usually within channels) or within unincorporated public road rights-of-way (usually under bridges). Upon discovering a homeless encampment, PW staff informs the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and/or CEO Service Integration Branch to conduct appropriate outreach services. Once completed, PW posts a two-week notice at the encampment site advising occupants the area will be cleaned. Since many encampments are deemed hazardous due to the presence of hypodermic needles, human waste, animal droppings, and other contaminated materials, PW supplements its staff with a specialized environmental contractor to properly clean up the area and dispose of the waste. In cases where occupants remain in the encampment despite outreach efforts or posted notices, PW staff will coordinate with local law enforcement on the day of the clean-up to have the occupants removed or relocated.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

***Please Conserve Paper – This Document and Copies are Two-Sided  
Intra-County Correspondence Sent Electronically Only***

PW utilizes Flood Control District and Road funds to pay for the clean-up of these encampments. The total cost of an average encampment clean-up is approximately \$15,000. However, the cost has been as high as \$450,000. This case involved a one-time clean-up along the Los Angeles River in September/October 2012. This cost anomaly was primarily due to the size of the encampment and associated scope of the clean-up effort. The table below summarizes the previous two fiscal years and year-to-date costs for the current fiscal year:

Homeless Encampment Clean-up Costs

	Fiscal Year 2011-12	Fiscal Year 2012-13	YTD Fiscal Year 2013-14
Road Fund	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$10,000
Flood Fund	\$285,000	\$939,000	\$343,000
Total	\$305,000	\$959,000	\$353,000

In response to the Board's request to determine whether Homeless Prevention Initiative funds could be used for homeless encampment clean-up operations, we have determined that these funds are not restricted from being used for these purposes. However, the CEO Homeless Coordinator does not recommend that Homeless Prevention Initiative resources be used for homeless encampment clean-up operations because they are the most flexible County resource specifically established for addressing the housing and supportive service needs of homeless individuals, families, and youth. In addition, on November 12, 2013, the Board directed the CEO to ensure that at least 90 percent of the recommended reprogrammed funds go to permanent supportive housing efforts in order to accomplish a reduction in the number of encampments throughout the County of Los Angeles.

Should you have any questions regarding homeless encampment clean-up, your staff may contact Massood Eftekhari, Department of Public Works, at (626) 458-4016, or via email at [meftek@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:meftek@dpw.lacounty.gov). For questions regarding Homeless Prevention Initiative funds, please contact Elizabeth Boyce, Chief Executive Office Homeless Coordinator, at (213) 974-4673, or via email at [eboyce@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:eboyce@ceo.lacounty.gov).

WTF:RLR  
RG:AB:kd

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Public Works